

Riverside Cottage

An important ornamental embellishment to the landscape of 'Capability' Brown and Humphry Repton, English Heritage has listed it as a building at Grade II. Built in about 1755-63, when 'Capability' Brown was laying out the Cole Green landscape for the 2nd Earl Cowper, it was a single-storey building for either a Fishing Lodge or a Gamekeeper's Cottage.

Fishing was a popular pastime in Georgian parks and many estates had fishing lodges.

The advances in firearms technology in the period also meant that shooting became more accurate, and therefore more popular, with landscapes reflecting this with the layout of copses and lodges.



It was altered in a picturesque fashion in the very early 19th century by raising it to 2 storeys – you can see the line in the brickwork where this was done. This fitted in very well with the work Humphry Repton was doing at the time laying out the Broadwater and the landscape for the new house at Panshanger (demolished 1953). Repton was another landscape designer who used ornamental buildings as eye-catchers or focal points in the landscape. This picturesque lodge has two lean-to wings, added at the same time the roof was raised.

Similar buildings of the time by Repton were at Glemham in Suffolk (left) or by John Buanarotti Papworth in his pattern books (below).

The estate was sold in 1953 and the 'Cottage in the Park' was described as having a range and copper in the kitchen, a Game Larder, Pig Sty, Loose Box and Kennels outside. Gardens for vegetables and flowers surrounded it. Services were minimal – a cesspool and a well.

In the 21st century it has been used as a Gamekeeper's Cottage for the Panshanger estate.

For more details on Panshanger see

<http://www.parksandgardens.org/places-and-people/site/2550>



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